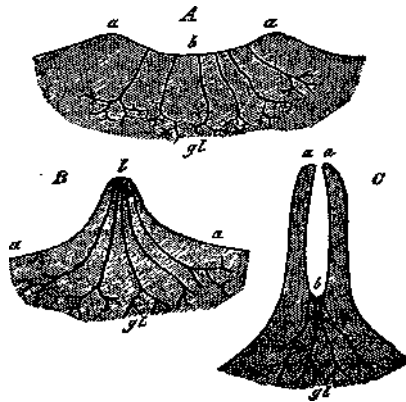




secondary. If this fact be fairly to be interpreted in the sense which Dr. Klaatseh attaches to it, we have an interesting case of the growth of a new organ out of and partly replacing an old organ. In the Monotremes there is a pouch which facilitates or performs both nutritive and protective functions; in the Phalanger these two functions are carried on in separate pouches ; finally, in other Marsupials, there is a return to the undifferentiated state of affairs found in the Monotremata, but with the help of a new organ not found in them.

. 4.—Diagram of the development of the nipple (in vertical section). A, Indifferent stage, glandular area flat; B, elevation of the glandular area with the nipple ; C, elevation of the

Though so characteristic of Marsupials, the marsupial pouch is not always developed in them. It is present in all the Kangaroos, Wallabies, and Wombats, in fact in the Diprotodonts. It is also present in a number of the carnivorous Polyprotodont Marsupials ; but in *Plascolagale* it is only present in rudiment, and in *Myrmecobius* it is entirely obsolete. In the American Opossums the state of the pouch is variable. " Generally absent, sometimes

merely composed of  
two  
lateral folds of skin  
separate at each end, rarely complete," is Mr. Thomas\*  
summary in his  
definition of the family Didelphyidae.<sup>1</sup> Another  
curious feature  
of the pouch in the Marsupials is the variability in  
the position  
of the mouth of the pouch: in all the  
Diprotodonts it looks  
forward; but in many Polyprotodonts it looks  
backward. This,  
however, has some connexion with the habitual  
attitude of the  
possessor: in the Kangaroo, leaping along on its  
hind-legs, it is  
requisite that the pouch should open forwards;  
but in the  
dog-like Thylacine, going on all fours, the fact  
that the pouch

<sup>1</sup> *Catalogue of Marsupials in British Museum,*